Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 AGR-10 STR-04 CEA-01 /160 W ------ 116929

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UNCLAS ROME 9337

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL - JUNE 23 - 27, 1975

/SUMMARY/ AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE MET FOUR TIMES BETWEEN JUNE 24-27 TO EXAMINE WFC DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE. MEMBERS WERE: AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, CUBA, EGYPT, GABON, GUINEA, FRG, IRAN, KENYA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, SWEDEN, T&T, USSR, US AND YUGOSLAVIA. MEXICO (ARMENDARIZ) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP. MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUED RAISED WAS ROLE TO BE ACCORDED WFC PRESIDENT VIS-A-VIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. LDC'S SOUGHT FUNCTIONS FOR PRESIDENT SUPERIOR TO OR IN INTERFERENCE WITH SECRETARIAOWM US AND OTHER DC'S OPPOSED. WORKING GROUP DECIDED THIS ISSUE WOULD BE HANDLED OUTSIDE THE REPORT, I.E., CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP WOULD INDICATE INABILITY WORKING GROUP TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT AND WOULD RECOMMEND ISSUE BE COMMITTED TO RECONVENED WORKING GROUP ON RULES. /END SUMMARY/

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- 1. AT ITS FIRST MEETING, AD HOC WORKING GROUP (WG) QUICKLY BOGGED DOWN ON QUESTION OF ROLES OF WFC PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. LDC'S ARGUED (A) THAT DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE (WFC/2) TREATED PRESIDENT ONLY AS CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING; (B) THAT PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE MORE SUBSTANTIVE ROLE TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS OF WFC; (C) THAT THIS ROLE SHOULD EXIST EVEN DURING INTERSESSIONAL PERIODS; (D) THAT, PERHAPS, PRESIDENT SHOULD BE CHIEF OF WFC SECRETARIAT; AND (E) THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, I.E., HIS POSITION AND TITLE, WERE IMPOSED ON WFC BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL WITHOUT AUTHORITY.
- 2. WEO'S ON WG OBJECTED TO OR DISPUTED ALL PRIOR POINTS,
 POINTING TO REGULAR PRACTICE FOR UN ORGANS AS TO SECRETARIAT
 AND PRESIDENT FUNCTIONS, AND LANGUAGE OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 RES. 3348 (XXIX) REQUESTING UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ESTABLISH
 WFC SECRETARIAT. ISSUE WAS ACTUALLY JOINED ON PARA 2 OF RULE
 1 (DOCUMENT WFC/2). LDC'S SOUGHT TO AMEND RULE TO PERMIT
 PRESIDENT RIGHT TO REQUEST CHANGE IN DATE OF REGULAR SESSION,
 AND TO DENY SAME RIGHT TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THOUGH THIS
 WAS RELATIVELY MINOR POINT, DC'S FIRMLY OPPOSED, ESPECIALLY
 IN LIGHT LDC ADMISSION THIS WAS ONLY FIRST STEP IN PLACING
 PRESIDENT IN COMPETITION WITH AND OR CONTROL OVER EXECUTIVE
 DIRECTOR AND WFC SECRETARIAT.
- 3. WG DID NOT PROGRESS PAST THIS RULE. REMAINDER OF WG TIME WAS SPENT ATTEMPTING TO AGREE ON ITS REPORT TO PLENARY. REPORT FINALLY AGREED UPON AT NOON ON LAST DAY OF SESSION CONTAINED FOLLOWING POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: (A) DUE TO LACK OF TIME AND SUBSTANTIVE DISAGREEMENTS, WG UNABLE APPROVE A DRAFT; (B) COUNCIL SOULD DECIDE TO DIRECT SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE RULES (WFC/2) TO COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT AND TO HAVE WG RECONVENED (WITH SAME COMPOSITION AS PRESENT) AT LATER DATE TO CONSIDER RULES IN LIGHT OF GOVERNMENT COMMENTS, WITH AIM THAT SECOND SESSION WFC WILL ADOPT ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE; AND (C) THAT COUNCIL SHOULD DECIDE THAT OFFICERS ELECTED AT ITS FIRST SESSION SHOULD SERVE UNTIL THE ELECTION OF THEIR SUCCESSORS AT ITS NEXT SESSION "AT WHICH TIME IT WILL ADOPT ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE."

/COMMENT/ - U.S. DELEGATE DOUBTS LIKELIHOOD THAT WFC WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTUALLY ADOPT ITS RULES AT ITS NEXT SESSION. /END COMMENT/

4. THE WG AGREED (WITH A RESERVATION BY GABON) THAT WG CHAIRMAN (ARMANDRIZ), AFTER HAVING PRESENTED ORAL WG REPORT, WOULD STATE THAT (A) WG CONSIDERED ROLE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHOULD PLAY WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF WFC DECISION ON RECOMMENDATIONS; (B) WG UNABLE TO REACH UNANIMITY AS REGARDS THE PRECISE ROLE EACH SHOULD PLAY;

AND (C) WG RECOMMENDS WFC SHOULD BRING THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION RECONVENED WG FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

COMMENT: THIS LANGUAGE AND PROCEDURE WAS SUGGESTED BY MEXICAN CHAIRMAN ARMANDRIZ AFTER LONG, DIFFICULT EXCHANGE IN WHICH GABON, GUINEA, EGYPT, ET AL, INSISTED WG RECOMMEND TO WFC BROAD POWERS FOR PRESIDENT, AND U.S., WITH OCCASIONAL ASSISTANCE OTHER WEO'S, STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED. RESULT WAS ONLY POSTPONEMENT OF INEVITABLE MAJOR STRUGGLE ON ROLE OF WFC PRESIDENT. GIVEN LATENESS OF AGREEMENT ON REPORT, THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN WRITTEN TEXT WHEN PRESENTED TO COUNCIL.VOLPE

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Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL - JUNE 23 - 27, 1975 /SUMMARY/ AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE MET FOUR

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